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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,863	01/31/2005	Steven Donders	18584	5239

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EXAMINER

HEINRICH, SAMUEL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1793

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/19/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,863	Applicant(s) DONDERS, STEVEN	
	Examiner Samuel M. Heinrich	Art Unit 1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>31 Jan 2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 1, "divisions" is not a clear description. Claim 1, line 3, "prior fabrication" is not a clear description. Claim 1, lines 8 and 9, "production of geometries" is not a clear description. Claim 1, lines 11 and 12, "leveling ... of the fused material" is not a clear description.

The dependent claims comprise at least the unclear descriptions of Claim 1.

Claim 18, "local fusion of a supplied material generated by means of a non-contact heat input" does not clearly describe whether the local fusion or the supplied material is generated by means of a non-contact heat input.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,947,003 to Jepsen et al. Jepsen et al show (Front Page) a slide shoe 6 having elevated features. The method of manufacture does not impart patentability to the instant article claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of USPN 5,947,003 to Jepsen et al and in view of USPN 4,401,726 to Gnanamuthu. AAPA describes (Specification Pages 1 and 2) well known reduction of friction between a swash plate and a guide block with an inserted slide part. Jepsen et al show a slide shoe 6 having either raised features (Fig. 1) or a plastic material (Fig. 2). Gnanamuthu describe (column 3, lines 43-61) applying dot or stripe coatings with a laser beam. The application of raised coating features by using local non-contact fusion would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the AAPA intended use is known and because the feature shape and application methods are known in surface bearing structure arts.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of USPN 5,947,003 to Jepsen et al and in view of USPN 4,401,726 to Gnanamuthu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of JP359219468A. JP359219468A describes (Abstract) irradiation with laser, electron, or plasma, and the use of any of these irradiation species would have been

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obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because they have suitable high energy density.

Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of USPN 5,947,003 to Jepsen et al and in view of USPN 4,401,726 to Gnanamuthu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of USPN 4,595,429 to Le Caer et al. Le Caer et al describe availability of filler in wire, strip or powder form and the use of any specie of these forms as a slide feature would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because Le Caer et al describe their use as surface coatings.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of USPN 5,947,003 to Jepsen et al and in view of USPN 4,401,726 to Gnanamuthu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US20030007709A1 to Schweigler et al. Schweigler et al describe [0022] well known nonferrous metal, plastic, and ceramic bearing materials, and the use of any specie of these materials would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because they have suitable properties useful with known materials and known bearing applications.

Conclusion

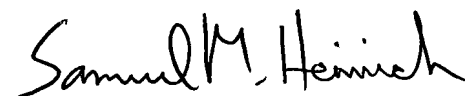
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cesar et al, Hauser et al, Kristensen et al, and Kamitsuma et al describe well known shoe/plate bearing features. JP61079783A describe well known laser, plasma, and electron energy irradiation.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel M. Heinrich whose telephone number is 571-272-1175. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Samuel M Heinrich
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

SMH